

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 were originally filed. This is a reply to a first Office action of June 25, 2007.

Claim Objections

The claims stand objected to based on an asserted informality according to which claim 7 contains an "and" following the first comma. Applicant has responsively amended claim 7 to correct the problem.

Drawings

Examiner states that Figures 1 and 2 should be designated by a legend --Prior Art--. Applicant herein adds the requested "Prior Art" designation to Figures 1 and 2, and submits the figures herein as replacement sheet 1, labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header, so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures.

Allowable Subject Matter

Examiner indicates independent claims 6, 10, and 13 are allowable.

Claim Rejections

Claims 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101, on grounds the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Specifically, the Office action asserts that the "program stored on a storage medium" would reasonably be interpreted by one of ordinary skill in the art as failing to fall within a statutory category of invention, because Applicant's disclosure contains no explicit and deliberate definition for the term "storage medium."

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sedukhin (U.S. PGPub. 2004/0030627).

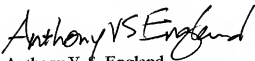
Applicant's Response

Applicant thanks Examiner for the indicated allowance of claims. Without intending to indicate that Applicant agrees with the claim rejections, and without relinquishing any potential breadth of claims, Applicant herein responsively cancels rejected claims 1-5, 16, and 17 to expedite issuance.

REQUESTED ACTIONS

For the reasons explained herein above, the noncanceled claims set out herein above are in condition for allowance, and Applicant hereby requests prompt passage of the application to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,



Anthony V. S. England
Attorney for IBM Corporation
Registration No. 35,129
512-477-7165
a@aengland.com

Attachments: Replacement Sheet 1